



Lamoine Board of Selectmen Minutes of September 22, 2005

Chairman Jo Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

Present were: Selectmen Cynthia Donaldson, Perry Fowler, Brett Jones, Josephine Cooper; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, Assistant Town Clerk Kathleen DeFusco, Harbor Master Gerald Ford, Cable TV techs Katie Bowman and Katie Murphy. Selectmen Richard Fennelly, Jr. had phoned in that he was unable to attend.

Agenda Review – Cynthia said she would like to add discussion about a mailbox and a snow plowing concern to the agenda.

Minutes of September 8, 2005 – Perry moved to approve the minutes as presented. Cynthia 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0 (Jones abstained).**

Snowplowing Contract – Stu reported he sent the changed contract to Nankervis Trucking and had not heard back from them with any problems, so he presumes they are OK with it. He said the new contract removes the performance bond and reference to that bond from the remedy section and includes the payment schedule. . Cynthia asked about a concern she'd heard about using salt on the roads and inquired if there was an alternative to mixing salt with sand. Perry said there are alternatives, but the town couldn't afford them. He said other chemicals don't work nearly as well. He said the state has studied the program and has discontinued using sand as the air and water quality is more adversely affected by sand. Stu noted the salt only program actually uses less salt. Jo said she had heard about increased salinity in brooks and streams. Perry said other towns have had problems with long term storage of salt/sand piles. He said Lamoine's is not on the aquifer. A short explanation followed about concentrations of salt and sand. Perry again stated that the damage to the environment is less from salt than sand.

Selectmen signed the revised contract.

Fire Department Painting Contract – Stu said the fire chief and the entire department recommended the cleaning proposal submitted by Bear Meadow Enterprises proprietor Mary Harney for \$3,600.00. Jo moved to award the cleaning bid to Bear Meadow Enterprises. Perry 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

General Assistance Ordinance – Stu said Maine Municipal Association has developed a new General Assistance Ordinance and suggested a public hearing to adopt the new ordinance on October 6th. Jo signed the public hearing order.

Junkyards – Stu reported that the junkyard permits now expire in October and recommended October 20th as the renewal meeting. He said the CEO generally looks over the junkyards prior to renewal. Selectmen had no objection.

Mileage Rate – Brett said he heard the IRS increased the rate. Jo said reimbursing drivers is a major issue and a lot of agencies tie their rate to the state rate. Stu said the state rate is set by its contract with the MSEA. He said most municipalities use the IRS rate, and the school department has its rate set by the Superintendent.

Jo said she has not heard from anyone on this matter. She asked what the IRS rate was. Stu said .48/mile at present. Jo said she agreed with Stu's opinion that the IRS is more flexible and that the state was tied to a union contract. Perry suggested using the average of the state rate and the IRS rate. Jo said she wants to make sure the town is fair to folks who need to be reimbursed for mileage. Perry said the Board should pick a date such as the beginning of the fiscal year. Stu asked if the Board would like to change the mileage policy to reflect that the Selectmen will set the mileage rate at the first meeting of each fiscal year and base that rate on the average of the state and the IRS rate. A short discussion followed on potential politics of various options. Perry moved to make the policy change as stated by Stu. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.** Stu said he would have the updated policy ready for the next meeting with approval being retroactive to July 1, 2005.

Budgeting Strategy - Jo reported the Budget Committee met earlier in the week and discussed budgeting philosophy. She said the Budget Committee wanted the Board to speak to some of the issues, especially the LD-1 override matter. She said she could not speak on behalf of the board to the budget committee because the discussion had not taken place.

Stu said the Budget Committee instruction was to present the needs of the town, but don't squeeze the expenses to meet the limitation of LD-1. Jo said the issue was not to overturn LD-1, but to look at the budget based on the town needs. She said the town should not artificially put off the needed work. Perry said the budget would be like any other year.

Jo said when the Administration Budget is presented she would like as many of the board to be present as possible. Cynthia asked how the budget is put together. Jo said Stu prepares a budget and presents it to the Selectmen to look over and present to the Budget Committee. She gave an example of floor repairs being included in the administration budget. Cynthia asked if that happens in a workshop. Stu said generally yes, following a regular meeting. Jo said the budget committee listens to the presentation and makes recommendations. She said the hope is to be on the same page, and to have a realistic budget. She said the Budget Committee expressed concern about the school budget. She said there is a concern that things might happen like last year and then the town has to cut the previously approved budget.

Brett said he thought LD-1 is less of a big deal. He said the time would come when there has to be an override, and as long as that is explained, the citizens should understand. Cynthia said there should be more information on long-term costs, such as a fire truck. Brett said he would like to see a schedule for all capital purchases. Cynthia asked if there were things that need to be replaced. Brett said the Selectmen could ask each board/department for a schedule in a far ranging plan. Stu said he could send that request when he asks for department/board budgets. Selectmen said they would like a 10-year projection.

Expenditure Warrant 5 – Stu said a new computer for the town clerk's office was on the warrant. A short discussion followed regarding computers. Stu said he didn't have to move any investment money as the property taxes have started coming in.

Mailbox – Stu said he spoke with Kim Murphy at the Lamoine General Store and she would be pleased to host a mailbox there. He said he would speak with the postmaster. Cynthia said to stress in a letter that there have been mail thefts.

Plowing Concern – Cynthia said the previous discussion about salt was the plowing concern she wanted to add to the agenda.

Bangor Hydro Transmission Line- Stu reported that Selectmen Fennelly met with Bangor Hydro recently and they eventually informed him of the plan to run a high voltage transmission line from the Hancock substation to Route three via Douglas Highway and Buttermilk Road lands. He said some of the route was under negotiation and that might explain some of the hesitation for a public meeting. Cynthia said it seems that the utility has handled the matter in an unusual fashion.

Stu said Fred Stocking of the Conservation Commission also spoke with the Bangor Hydro representative and invited them to a public meeting. He said the Conservation Commission is scheduling that for October 12th. A short discussion followed. Cynthia said it would be nice to hear publicly from Bangor Hydro.

Other – Brett asked about the Rohner/Simons line dispute that was before the Board of Appeals. Stu said the Appeals Board felt they did not have the authority to take any action and that the problem is a property line dispute. He said the Appeals Board will communicate that to Ms. Rohner. A brief discussion followed.

Next Meeting – Jo said the next Selectmen's meeting is October 6, 2005. Stu said the major issues will be the General Assistance Ordinance and the budget.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst.